

Life of Seward.

Appendix 1.

Compared with original

E. B.

APPENDIX A

GARRISON to ROSS

Rosene, August, 28. 1875.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter, in reply to mine, has just been received.

I beg to be understood. In recording in your book what John Brown is said to have uttered concerning the northern abolitionists, I did not suppose that you endorsed his sentiments, but published them rather to show how intensely concentrated was his mind upon his own method of operations. Still, their absurdity and injustice are none the less obvious, and quite derogatory to his moral discernment; and as, out of regard to his memory, it would have been a friendly act not to have printed them, so it will be none the less friendly and judicious on your part to suppress them in the new edition of your work, as you intend doing. He will be better appreciated by the omission.

The truth is, John Brown was exactly fitted for the enterprise he undertook to achieve. He believed in the method of Joshua rather than that of Jesus—in the sword of Gideon rather than the sword of the Spirit—in powder and ball rather than any moral instrumentalities; and he acted accordingly, being as willing to be led to the stake or gallows as any martyr or patriot of other days, acting all the while under the deepest religious convictions. While in prison, awaiting his execution, he evidently had his spiritual vision somewhat purged; for, writing to a Quaker lady in Rhode Island, he said: 'You know that Christ once armed Peter [a mistake, for the occasion referred to inculcates a very different lesson]; so, also, I think in my case He put a sword into my hand, and there continued it as long as He saw best, and then kindly took it from me [a marked paradox]; I mean when I first went to Kansas. I wish you could know with what cheerfulness I am now wielding the sword of the Spirit on the right hand and on the left. I bless God that it proves "mighty to the pulling down of strong holds." Yes, his power over men's hearts, on both sides of the Atlantic, emanated from his prison through the spirit he displayed and the grand words he wrote in his numerous letters. Had he been killed outright, with a musket in his hand, at Harper's Ferry, the world would have regarded him as simply or little better than insane. At the time, I said in the *Liberator*, 'By the logic of Concord, Lexington, and Bunker Hill, and by the principles enunciated by this nation in its Declaration of Independence, Captain Brown was a hero, to be justified in all that he aimed to achieve, however lacking in sound discretion.' I always endeavored to deal tenderly and generously with him, though not in accord with his martial policy.

Very truly yours,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.—MS.

Dr. A. M. Ross.

